

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 02339

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEBR, KS, CA
SUBJECT: ROK DEFECTOR IN CANADA

REF: SEOUL 3809

1. ESTIMATE THAT ROK CONSULAR OFFICIAL, WHO IS SEEKING TO REMAIN IN CANADA, MIGHT CITE SENSATIONAL REASONS FOR HIS DECISION (REFTEL) HAS PROVED TO BE CORRECT. MAY 8 TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL CARRIED STORY UNDER HEADING "LIVING IN FEAR -- REFUGEE STATUS ASKED BY KOREAN DIPLOMAT." STORY REPORTED THAT "YUNG-MAN YANG, 41, VICE-CONSUL AT THE SOUTH KOREAN CONSULATE GENERAL (TORONTO), WENT INTO HIDING ON APRIL 28 AFTER 4 KCIA AGENTS FLEW FROM SEOUL TO TORONTO LOOKING FOR HIM. HE WAS TAKEN UNDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY BY THE RCMP FROM APRIL 28 TO MAY 1 AND THEN RELEASED."

2. GLOBE AND MAIL STORY CITED FURTHER DETAILS GIVEN BY TERRENCE CASKIE, YANG'S LAWYER. ACCORDING TO CASKIE, YANG'S DIFFICULTIES STEMMED FROM PERSONALITY CONFLICT WITH ROK CONSUL SHIN-CHUN PARK. CASKIE ALLEGED THAT PARK WAS INTELLIGENCE AGENT POSING AS A DIPLOMAT AND THAT PARK HAD INSTRUCTED YANG TO DENY CONSULAR SERVICES TO PEOPLE HE
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(PARK) CONSIDERED ENEMIES OF SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT. ALLEGEDLY YANG IGNORED PARK'S ORDERS RESULTING IN CURTAILMENT OF YANG'S TOUR OF DUTY AND TRANSFER TO BRASILIA. FEARING THAT TRANSFER WAS MERELY A RUSE TO FORCE HIS RETURN TO SOUTH KOREA, YANG CONTACTED CASKIE, REQUESTED REFUGEE STATUS, AND WENT INTO HIDING.

3. GLOBE AND MAIL STORY INDICATED THAT RCMP SUGGESTED PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, ACCORDING TO CASKIE, AFTER REPORT THAT 4 KCIA AGENTS WERE ON THEIR WAY FROM SEOUL. CASKIE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PROTECTIVE CUSTODY WAS TERMINATED MAY 1 WHEN RCMP "INDICATED TO ME THAT ANY DANGER TO MR. YANG POSED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS WAS HIGHLY REMOTE."

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO SOURCE IN DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, (EXTAFF), EXTAFF MINISTER JAMIESON HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH STATEMENT DOWN-PLAYING ENTIRE MATTER. GIST OF STATEMENT IS THAT RCMP DID PROVIDE YANG WITH PROTECTION UNTIL MAY 1 IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER YANG'S PHYSICAL SAFETY MIGHT BE IN JEOPARDY. THIS WAS REMOVED, HOWEVER, WHEN RCMP DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE YANG SITUATION AND PURPORTED VISIT BY KOREAN OFFICIALS. STATEMENT INDICATES FURTHER THAT EXTAFF IS UNAWARE WHETHER ROK OFFICIALS ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF KCIA.

5. EXTAFF OFFICIAL INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT GOC, IN EFFORT TO CALM ROK SENSITIVITIES, IS TREATING YANG CASE AS REQUEST FOR IMMIGRANT STATUS AND NOT AS REQUEST FOR REFUGEE STATUS. ENDERS

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